

# **The Impact of Legislation on the Methamphetamine Problem**



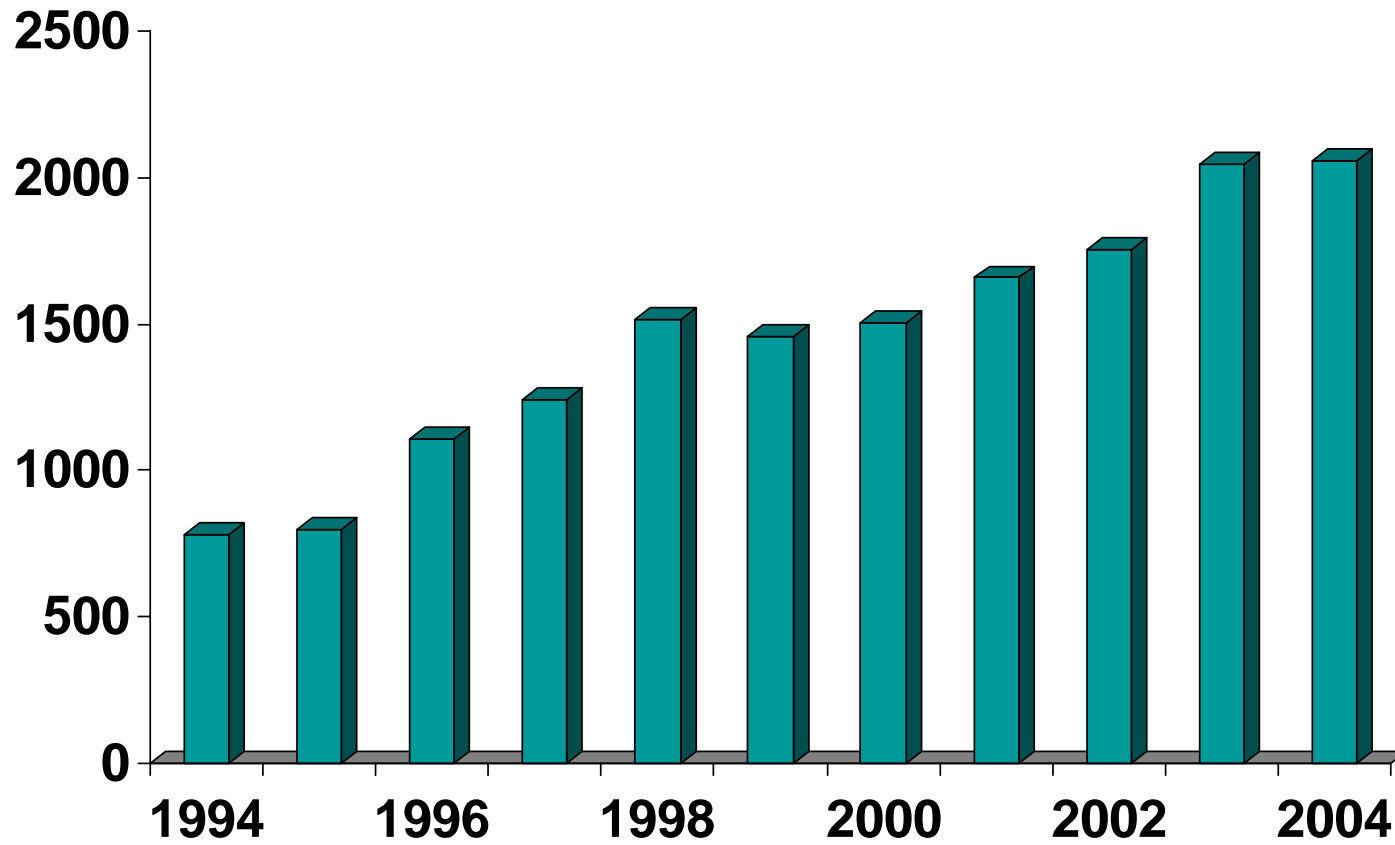
Wayne Stenehjem  
North Dakota Attorney General

# North Dakota's Strategy

Arizona Meth Conference

February 13-14, 2006

# Drug Arrests 1994-2004



# North Dakota Facts

- In 2004, **60%** of male prison inmates used methamphetamine prior to incarceration.
- The number of meth lab busts increased by **1433%** between 1995 and 2000.
- In 2003, almost **10%** of ND high school seniors tried meth at least once.

# Meth

- Three-pronged approach - substance abuse prevention, treatment and law enforcement.
- Two components are necessary to manufacture meth – anhydrous ammonia and pseudoephedrine.

# 2003 Legislation

- Retailer Meth Watch program;
- Anhydrous Ammonia –pilot program for anhydrous nurse tank locks;
- Restrictions on over-the-counter retail sales of certain cough and cold medicines;
- Criminal penalties for exposing children to controlled substances, chemical substances used to manufacture meth, or drug paraphernalia;

# 2003 - continued

- Flexibility for residential treatment options with group insurance plans;
- Mandatory sentences when a weapon is involved in an arrest for possession of a controlled substance;
- Expanded definition of “deprived child” to include exposure to manufacture of meth.

# Anhydrous Ammonia Theft:





# Anhydrous Ammonia Injuries

- Caustic Burns as  $\text{NH}_3$  dissolves into body tissue.
- Inhalation causing throat to swell shut and suffocation.
- Low boiling point (-28 degrees F.) causes burns like dry ice.
- Exposure to concentrations of 2,500 to 6,500 ppm can result in death.



*Photos - Office  
of Drug  
Control Policy,  
IA*







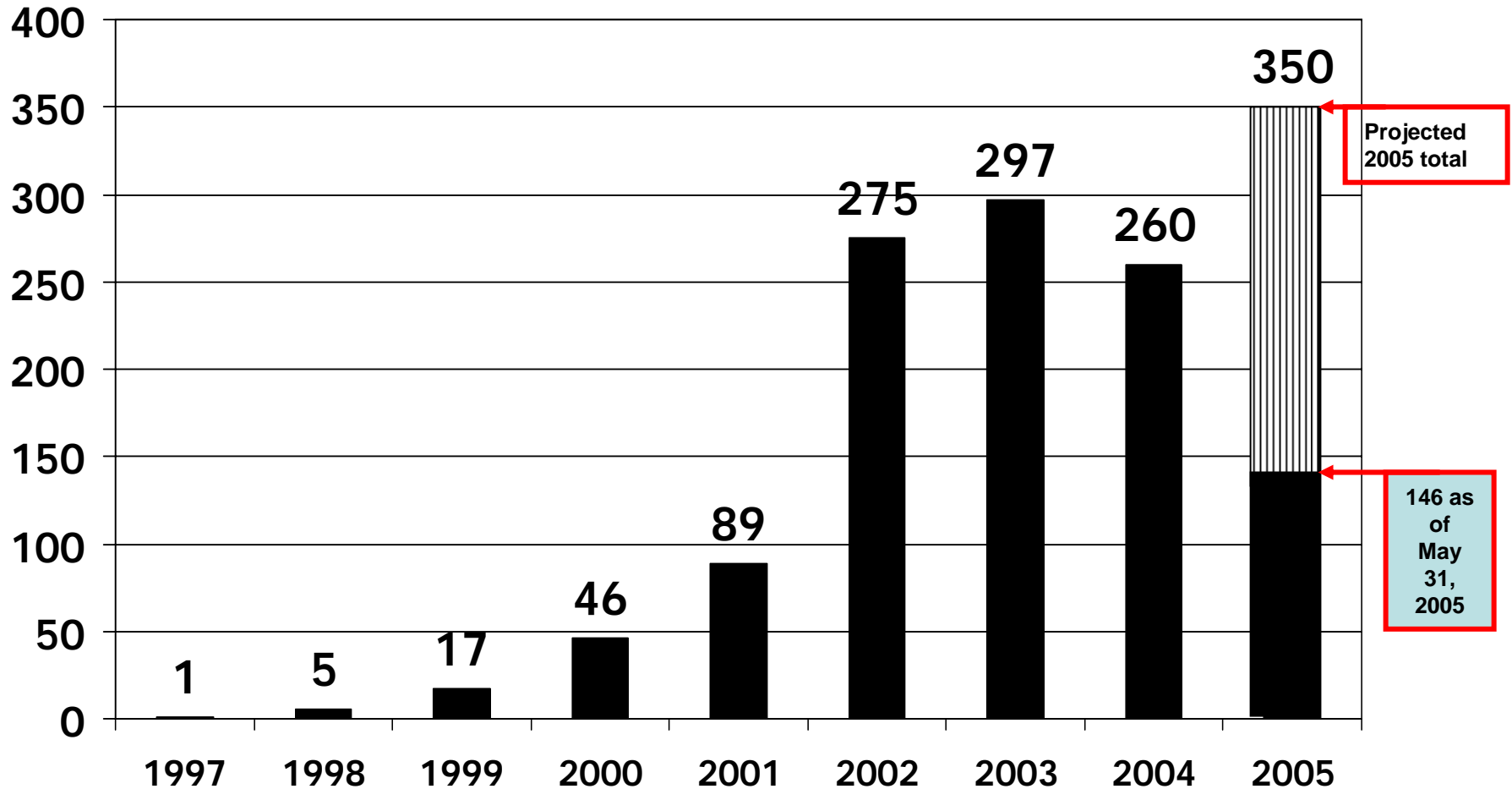




# Meth Watch Program

- Train retailers and employees how to identify and report suspicious drug activity.
- Restricted sales of pseudoephedrine to 3 grams in a single sale – exempted non-solid product.

**State of North Dakota  
Meth Labs Trends  
1997 – 2005 (projected)**



# 2005 Legislation

- Drug offenders - bail conditional upon clean urinalysis tests
- Mandatory treatment for first time felony drug offenders
- Additional restrictions on retail sales of ephedrine products



# 2005 - continued

- Penalties for ingesting controlled substances
- Expanded anhydrous ammonia tank lock program

Other initiative:

- Establish state Drug Endangered Children program

# Anhydrous Ammonia Tank Locks

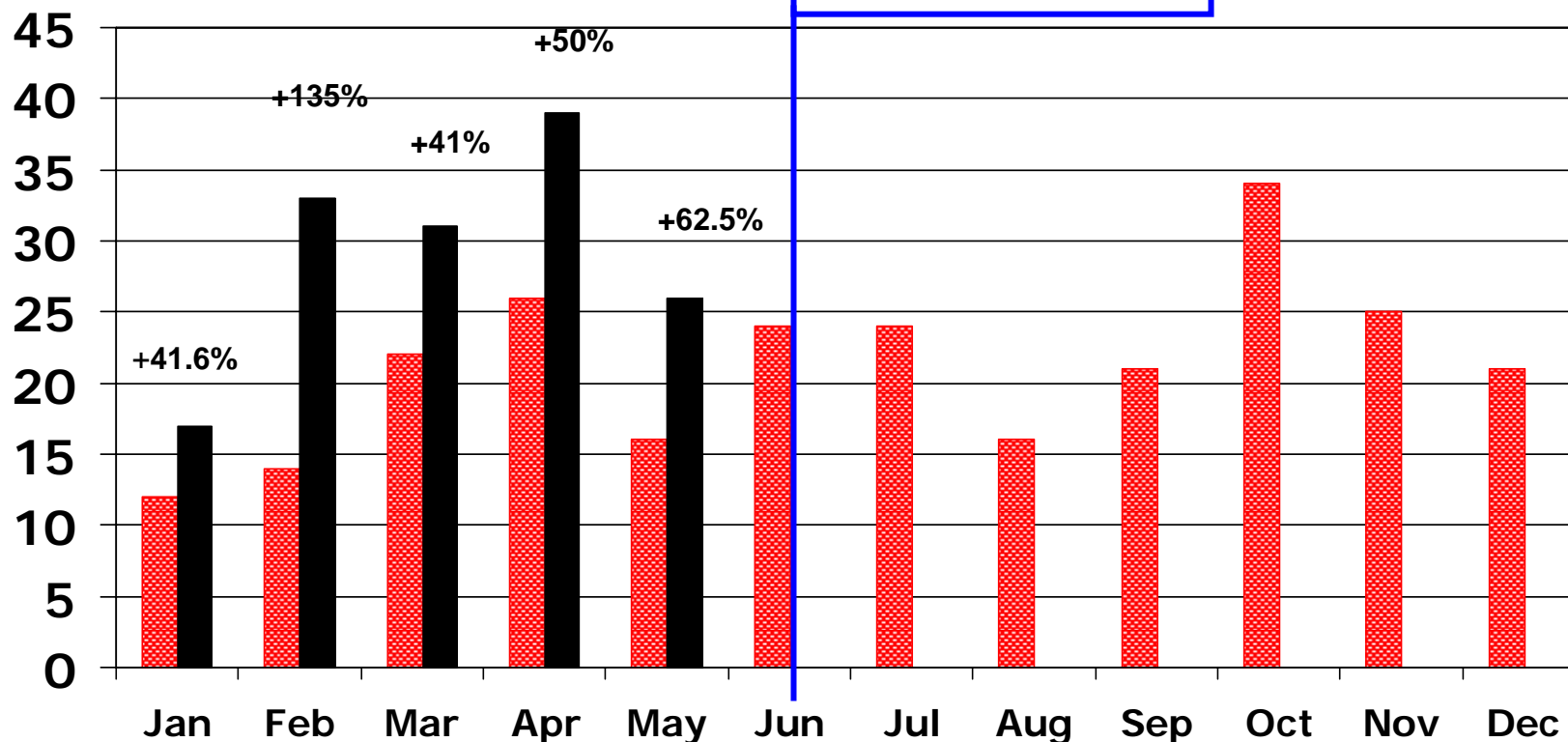


- In 2004 and 2005, 66% of all ND meth lab seizures were in rural areas.
- The anhydrous ammonia tank lock pilot program operates in 6 (of 53) counties.
- No attempt to steal anhydrous from a locked tank has been successful since the pilot program began.
- Counties adjoining the pilot program are experiencing increased theft from tanks.

# State of North Dakota

# of Meth Labs

June 1, 2005 –cold medicine  
restrictions take effect



■ 2004 ■ 2005

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
2004	12	14	22	26	16	24	24	16	21	34	25	21
2005	17	33	31	39	26							

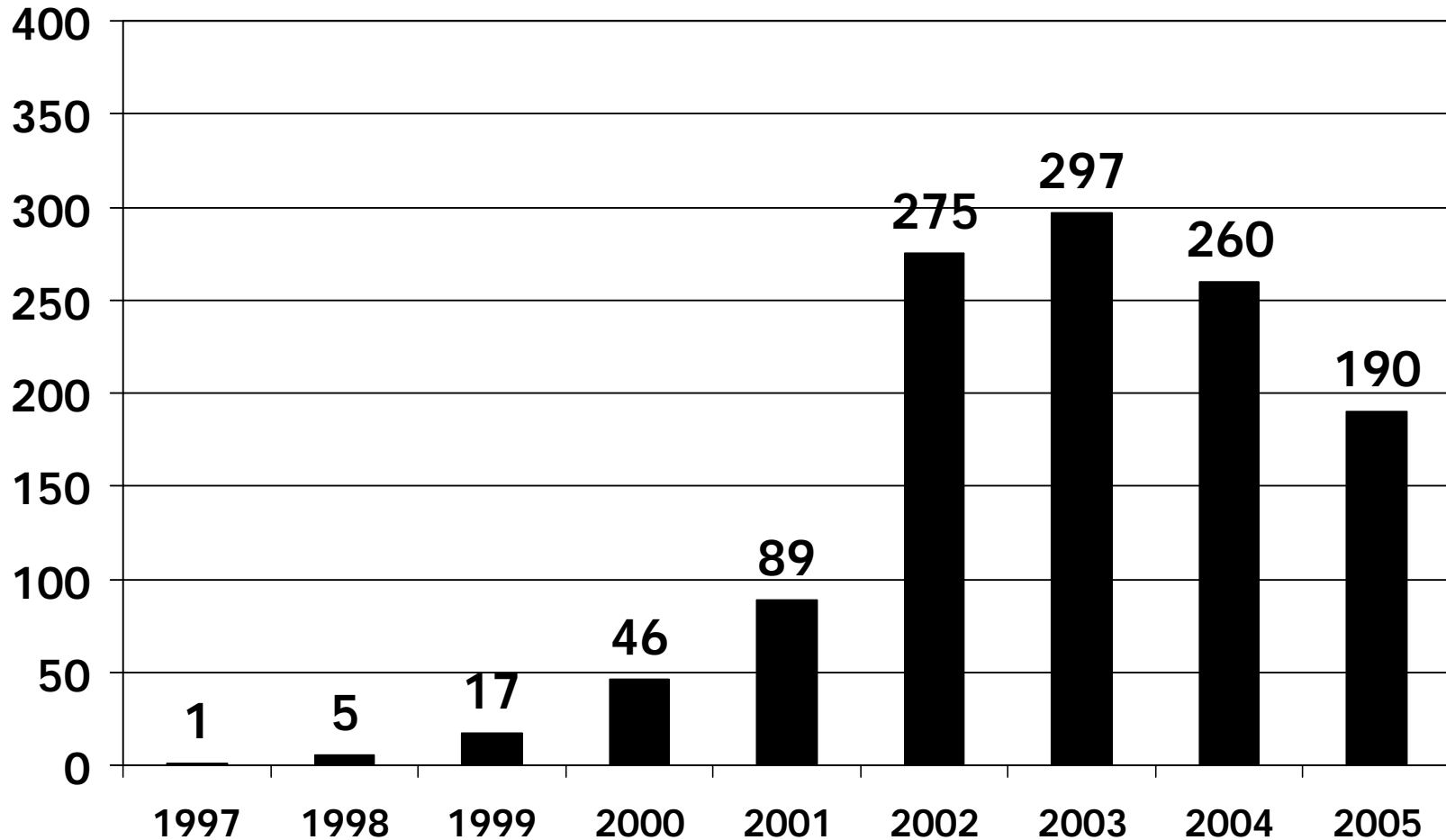
# Pseudoephedrine Restrictions

- No more than 2 grams in single sale. Restrictions apply to liquid medicines - only pediatric products are exempt.
- Purchaser must be over 18. A government-issued photo ID is required.
- Retailers must keep a written log of sales, including the purchaser's name, address, date of birth, and license/ID number. Log is confidential except for law enforcement purposes.
- Retailers must keep the product: behind the counter; OR display only 1 package of each product on the shelves; OR under video surveillance (notice of the surveillance must be posted).

# Legislation Works

- States that have not enacted restrictions on pseudoephedrine precursors have experienced a disturbing new trend – meth cooks traveling from restricted states to buy or steal the pseudoephedrine they need to keep cooking meth.

## Impact of Legislation ND Meth Lab Busts 1997 – 2005

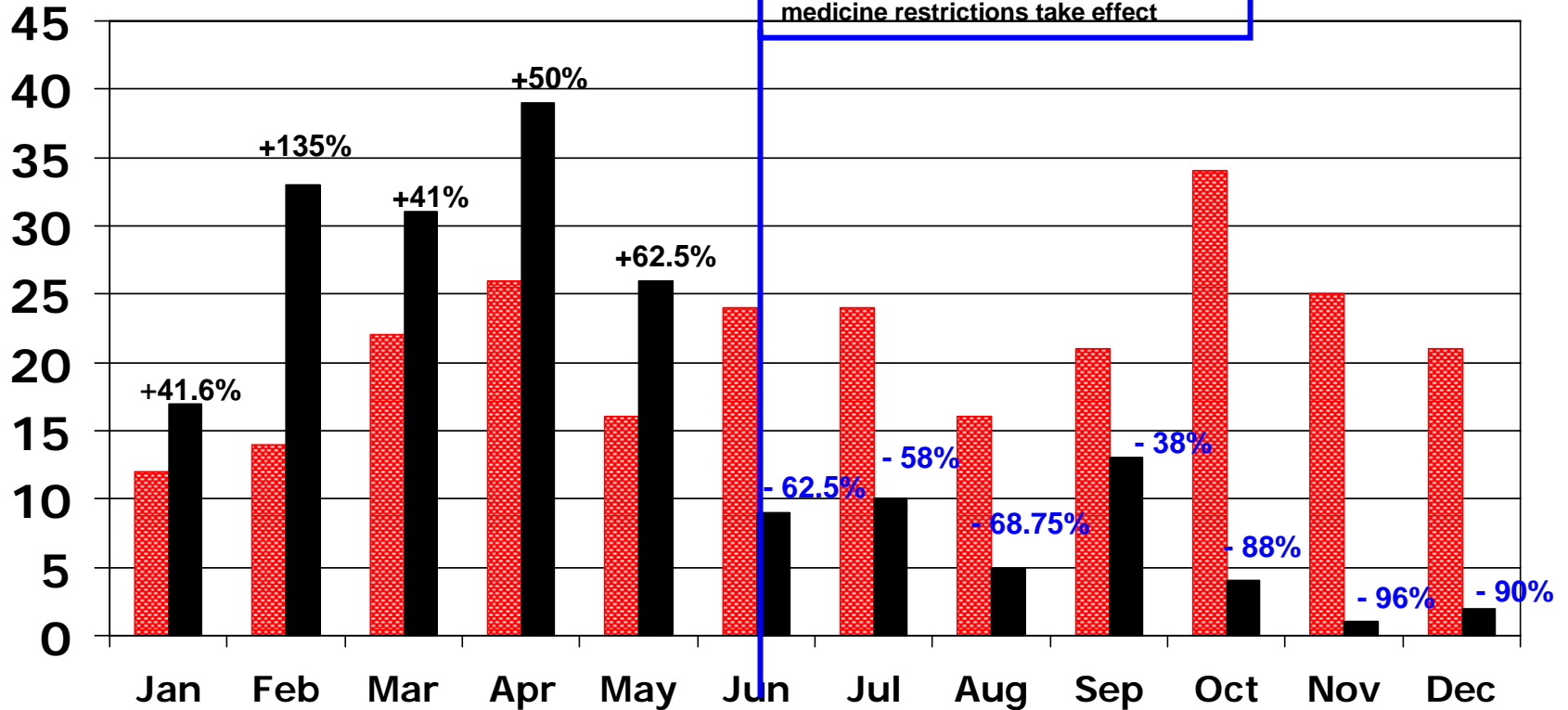


Overall reduction in meth lab busts 2004-2005 = 27%

Comparison for months since restrictions took effect (June 2005) = 70% reduction

# State of North Dakota – 2 year comparison

# of Meth Labs



■ 2004 ■ 2005

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
2004	12	14	22	26	16	24	24	16	21	34	25	21
2005	17	33	31	39	26	9	10	5	13	4	1	2